

CLAIMS

1. A method for preventing or reducing plaque or plaque build-up in an individual comprising contacting all or a portion of the individual's oral cavity with a non-aqueous composition comprising a carboxyvinyl polymer, a humectant, a polyethylene glycol and about 0.25 to about 10% by weight bioactive glass particles having an average particle size of less than about 20 microns for a time effective to prevent or reduce plaque or plaque build-up.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the contacting is continued for more than about 30 seconds.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the contacting is continued for about 30 seconds to about 2 minutes.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the carboxyvinyl polymer is a carbomer.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the humectant is glycerin, sorbitol, propylene glycol or mixtures thereof.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the non-aqueous composition further comprises a dentally acceptable abrasive.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the dentally acceptable abrasive is a silica abrasive.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the non-aqueous composition further comprises a thickening silica.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the non-aqueous composition comprises about 2 to about 5% by weight bioactive glass particles.

10. A method for preventing or reducing gingivitis in an individual comprising contacting the individual's oral cavity with a non-aqueous composition comprising a carboxyvinyl polymer, a humectant, a polyethylene glycol and about 0.25 to about 10% by weight bioactive glass particles having an average particle size of less than about 20 microns for a time effective to prevent or reduce gingivitis.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the contacting is continued for more than about 30 seconds.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the contacting is continued for about 30 seconds to about 2 minutes.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the carboxyvinyl polymer is a carbomer.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the humectant is glycerin, sorbitol, propylene glycol or mixtures thereof.

15. The method of claim 10 wherein the non-aqueous composition further comprises a dentally acceptable abrasive.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the dentally acceptable abrasive is a silica abrasive.

17. The method of claim 10 wherein the non-aqueous composition further comprises a thickening silica.

18. The method of claim 10 wherein the non-aqueous composition comprises about 2 to about 5% by weight bioactive glass particles.

19. A non-aqueous composition for preventing or reducing plaque or plaque build-up on teeth comprising about 0.25 to about 10% by weight bioactive glass particles having an average particle size of less than about 20 microns in a non-

aqueous carrier wherein the non-aqueous composition has a pH of about 6.0 to about 8.0, and wherein the pH of the non-aqueous composition increases less than about 1.5 pH unit upon exposure of the non-aqueous composition to an oral environment.

20. The non-aqueous composition of claim 19 wherein the non-aqueous carrier comprises carboxyvinyl polymer, a humectant, a polyethylene glycol, and a thickening agent.

21. The non-aqueous composition of claim 20 wherein the carboxyvinyl polymer is a carbomer.

22. The non-aqueous composition of claim 20 wherein the humectant is glycerin, sorbitol, propylene glycol or mixtures thereof.

23. The non-aqueous composition of claim 20 wherein the non-aqueous carrier further comprises a dentally acceptable abrasive.

24. The non-aqueous composition of claim 23 wherein the dentally acceptable abrasive is a silica abrasive.

25. The non-aqueous composition of claim 20 wherein the thickening agent is a thickening silica.

26. A non-aqueous composition for preventing or reducing gingivitis comprising about 0.25 to about 10% by weight bioactive glass particles having an average particle size of less than about 20 microns in a non-aqueous carrier wherein the non-aqueous composition has a pH of about 6.0 to about 8.0, and wherein the pH of the non-aqueous composition increases less than about 1.5 pH unit upon exposure of the composition to an oral environment.

27. The non-aqueous composition of claim 26 wherein the non-aqueous carrier comprises carboxyvinyl polymer, a humectant, a polyethylene glycol and a thickening agent.

28. The non-aqueous composition of claim 27 wherein the carboxyvinyl polymer is a carbomer.

29. The non-aqueous composition of claim 27 wherein the humectant is glycerin, sorbitol, propylene glycol or mixtures thereof.

30. The non-aqueous composition of claim 27 wherein the non-aqueous carrier further comprises a dentally acceptable abrasive.

31. The non-aqueous composition of claim 27 wherein the thickening agent is a thickening silica.

32. A non-aqueous dentifrice composition comprising about 50 to about 60% by weight glycerin, about 15 to about 18% by weight polyethylene glycol, about 10 to about 15% by weight abrasive silica, about 2 to about 5% by weight thickening silica, about one percent by weight coloring agent, about 0.2 to about 0.4% by weight carbomer, about 0.4% by weight sweetening agent and about 1 to about 10% by weight bioactive glass having an average particle size of less than about 15 microns, wherein the pH of the composition increases less than about 1.5 pH unit upon exposure of the composition to an oral environment.

33. The non-aqueous dentifrice composition of claim 32 comprising about 2 to about 5% by weight bioactive glass.

34. A toothpaste comprising glycerin, a polyethylene glycol, a thickening silica, a carbomer, and about 0.25 to about 10% by weight bioactive glass having an average particle size of less than about 20 microns, wherein the pH of the toothpaste

increases less than about 1.5 pH unit upon exposure of the toothpaste to an oral environment.